

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 RSC-01 DRC-01 SS-20 SSO-00 CCO-00 ISO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 NEA-10

ACDA-19 MC-02 AEC-11 EUR-25 NIC-01 SAJ-01 OIC-04 /168 W

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O R 040305Z MAR 74 ZFF-6

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

SECSTATE WASHDC 1093

S E C R E T JAKARTA 2659

DEPTO 49

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (RUSH)

SUBJECT: RUSH MEETING WITH DEP PM AND DEF MIN BARNARD

1. SUMMARY. ON 1 MARCH, SECRETARY RUSH MET WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND (CONCURRENTLY) MINISTER OF DEFENCE LANCE BARNARD. WIDE-RANGING CONVERSATION CONTAINED NO SURPRISES. DISCUSSED INTER ALIA WERE NPW VISITS, THE INDIAN OCEAN AND DIEGO GARCIA, THE ANZUS MEETING, AND NZ NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE CONCEPT. MR. BARNARD REPEATED HIS WASHINGTON PROMISE THAT GOA WOULD BE "WILLING TO PROVIDE FACILITIES" TO US NAVAL VESSELS WHEN THE BASE AT COCKBURN SOUND OPENS IN 1978. AT CLOSING, HE ADDED THAT GOA WOULD SOON MAKE "DECISIONS" AND HE WOULD THEREFORE BE VISITING WASHINGTON SHORTLY ON "MILITARY PROCUREMENT MATTERS." END SUMMARY

2. US TRIP. MR. BARNARD COMMITTED WITH SATISFACTION ON HIS RECENT TRIP TO WASHINGTON, NOTING THAT IT WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL AND THAT THE PUBLIC REACTION IN

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AUSTRALIA WAS "EXTREMELY FAVORABLE." MR. RUSH AGREED

THAT WE TOO WERE QUITE PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS.

3. INDIAN OCEAN, DIEGO GARCIA, SUEZ CANAL. MR. BARNARD SAID THAT HE AND PM WHITLAM GENERALLY SHARE THE SAME VIEWS ON DEFENSE MATTERS, BUT INDICATED IT WOULD HAVE BEEN HELPFUL TO HIM, IN DEALING WITH THE PM AND THE CABINET ,IF HE HAD BEEN INFORMED ADEQUATELY IN ADVANCE OF OUR PLANS REGARDING DIEGO GARCIA. SEC. RUSH SAID THAT THERE WAS PERHAPS A LACK OF FORESIGHT ON OUR PART AND AMBASSADOR GREEN ADDED THAT THE BRITISH WHO BRIEFED WHITLAM IN RANGOON SHORTLY BEFORE THE ANNOUNCEMENT HAD NOT DONE A THOROUGH JOB. BARNARD SAID HE TOLD THE PRIME MINISTER THAT AUSTRALIA CANNOT CRITICIZE THE US INDIAN OCEAN PRESENCE, AS THE GOA HAS NEVER CRITICIZED THE USSR IN THIS REGARD. MR. RUSH REPLIED THAT THE SOVIET INDIAN OCEAN DEPLOYMENTS WERE MUCH GREATER THAN OUR OWN, AND DESCRIBED US FORCE STRENGTH AND BASE REDUCTIONS OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, IN CONTRAST TO SOVIET BUILD-UPS IN EASTERN EUROPE, NAVAL STRENGTH, AND MISSILE SYSTEMS. ON DIEGO GARCIA, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID, WE WERE IMPROVING A FACILITY, NOT BUILDING A BASE. THE RUNWAY IS BEING EXPANDED, THE HARBOR DREDGED, AND SUPPLIES PRE-POSITIONED, AT A COST OF \$29 MILLION. HE STRESSED THE AUSTERITY OF THE OPERATION, AND AGREED WITH SIR ARTHUR TANGE THAT SOVIET CAPABILITIES WOULD BE FURTHER INCREASED WHEN THE SUEZ CANAL

WAS REOPENED, POSSIBLY AS SOON AS JULY OR AUGUST OF THIS YEAR. ALL SOVIET NAVAL UNITS, HE NOTED, ARE CAPABLE OF TRANSITING THE CANAL, WHEREAS OUR CVA'S ARE TOO LARGE. HE EXPRESSED THE USG HOPE FOR SOVIET RESTRAINT WITH REGARD TO INDIAN OCEAN DEPLOYMENTS. CONCERNING THE US NAVAL PRESENCE THERE, MR. BARNARD REPEATED THAT "THERE WILL BE NO CRITICISM OF THE UNITED STATES BY AUSTRALIA IN THIS MATTER," AND REITERATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD BE "WILLING TO PROVIDE FACILITIES" TO OUR SHIPS WHEN THE RAN BASE AT COCKBURN SOUND IS COMPLETED IN 1978.

4. ANZUS AND NZ NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE PROPOSAL. MR. RUSH
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DESCRIBED THE JUST-CONCLUDED ANZUS MEETING (REPORTED SEPTEL), AND NOTED THAT HE AND HIS ANZUS COLLEAGUES WERE EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH THE WIDE-RANGING NATURE OF THE DISCUSSIONS. ALL AGREED, HE SAID, THAT ANZUS IS IMPORTANT IN MORE THAN JUST A MILITARY SENSE. MR. BARNARD REPLIED THAT THE MORE DISCUSSIONS WE CAN HAVE, THE BETTER, AS IT KEEPS ANZUS ALIVE IN THE EYES OF THE PUBLIC. HE ASKED IF PM KIRK HAD RAISED HIS NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE CONCEPT WITH

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY. MR. RUSH SAID HE FULLY UNDERSTANDS THE USG POSITION IN THIS REGARD. IT DID NOT COME UP AT THE FORMAL COUNCIL MEETINGS, BUT MR. KIRK MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE CONSIDERS BOTH THE NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE AND INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE PROPOSALS TO BE LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES THAT ARE UNATTAINABLE AT THIS TIME.

5. NPW VISITS. MR. BARNARD ASKED IF PM KIRK HAD RAISED THE QUESTION OF NUCLEAR-POWERED WARSHIP VISITS TO NEW ZEALAND. SECRETARY RUSH SAID HE DESCRIBED THE USG POSITION TO THE PM IN THEIR PRIVATE SESSION, AND THAT "KIRK DIDN'T SAY YES AND HE DIDN'T SAY NO." MR. BARNARD THEN REITERATED THE GOA'S VIEW THAT IT CANNOT FORCE THE SEVERAL AUSTRALIAN STATES TO ACCEPT NPW VISITS AGAINST THEIR WILL. HE SAID THAT HE WISHED TO ESTABLISH A POSITION WITH MR. WHITLAM BEFORE THE ISSUE WAS PUT TO THE CABINET. THE MINISTER ALLOWED THAT A DECISION MUST BE ARRIVED AT SOON, AS THIS QUESTION COULD ALSO INVOLVE MERCHANT SHIPS IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE. HE SAID HE WISHED TO SEE IT RESOLVED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND WITH AS LITTLE PUBLIC DISCUSSION AS POSSIBLE. MR. RUSH SAID IT WAS A PITY THAT NUCLEAR POWER BURST UPON THE WORLD IN THE FORM OF BOMBS OVER HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI RATHER THAN AS A PEACE-TIME SOURCE OF POWER.

6. NORTHWEST CAPE AND CONCLUDING REMARKS. AMBASSADOR GREEN INQUIRED AS TO THE STATE OF PLAY CONCERNING THE FORMAL EXCHANGE OF NOTES ON THE ESCAPE COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY. MR. BARNARD SAID HIS LEGAL ADVISER FEELS THAT PARLIAMENTARY SANCTION IN THE FORM OF LEGISLATION WILL BE REQUIRED, BUT THAT THERE WILL BE NO PROBLEMS IN THIS REGARD; IT IS MERELY A QUESTION OF TIMING. THIS MOST CORDIAL MEETING CONCLUDED WITH MR. BARNARD
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VOLUNTEERING THAT CERTAIN GOA DECISIONS WERE IMMINENT AND THAT HE WOULD BE "COMING TO WASHINGTON SOON ON MILITARY PROCUREMENT MATTERS." PRESUMABLY, THIS REFERS TO AUSTRALIAN PURCHASES OF A NEW MAIN BATTLE TANK, AND POSSIBLY AIRCRAFT AND PATROL FRIGATES. DETAILS THIS SUBJECT ALREADY SENT SEPTEL TO DEPARTMENT AND DOD.
RUSH

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